

## REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8 and 10-12 have been rejected in view of the reference Mandel et al. The method of patentee is closely related to the claimed method of applicant in that both prepare formulated resins by mixing the several components of the resins systems in a supercritical fluid. The essential difference between the two methods lies in the fact that the method disclosed by patentee results in a powder (or a foam which may be ground into a powder) while the method claimed by applicant produces a deformable fluid.

Applicant achieves his result by including a plasticizer or high boiling solvent which controls the transient processing time of the deformable liquid. To make this distinction clear, the limitations of Claim 8, cancelled by this amendment, have been included by way of limitation in the currently amended Claim 1. This amendment to Claim 1 is fully supported by the teachings of the specification. For example, attention is invited to the following passages in the specification.

Page 7, first paragraph, second and third sentences: "The fluid heat reactive resin system may be configured into a shape or applied as a coating to a substrate by spreading, for example, and cured at a low temperature. Alternatively, the fluid heat reactive resin system may be spread in a thin sheet to allow the residual liquified gas and solvent/plasticizer to escape more rapidly and subsequently pulverize the non-solvated, now solid, heat reactive resin system, for application by conventional powder coating methods; or, it can be agitated during solidification to form a powder directly."

Page 7, second paragraph, last sentence: "The elapsed time that the heat reactive system remains fluid and is capable of manipulation is here referred to as the "transient processing time" - which can vary from several minutes to several hours depending on the temperature of the system, the surface to volume ratio into which the resin system is configured and the amount of high boiling solvents or plasticizers included in the system."

Page 8, last full paragraph: "It has been found that the transient processing time can be materially extended if minor amounts, e.g. 10% or less by weight, of high boiling solvents or plasticizers are included in the heat reactive resin system."

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Page 10, lines 27 continuing to 11, lines 2: "This presence of mineral spirits is most important. It is believed that the mineral spirits act as a plasticizer or a high boiling solvent for the resin and is responsible for establishing and extending the transient processing time."

Page 11 lines 25 continuing to page 12 line 3: "After about five minutes after discharge from the vessel, the fluid heat reactive resin system started to solidify, although it was still tractable. Ten minutes after depressurization, the resin system was still fluid, but had the consistency of putty and flowed only under force. After about 30 minutes, the resin system was essentially solid especially in thinner sections, i.e., less than about 5mm. Thick sections were still slightly soft."

The foregoing comments make reference to those portions of the specification whereat the need for a plasticizer/solvent are discussed. To make clear that the use of plasticizers/solvents *are not anticipated by the reference Mandel*, the Examiners attention is invited to the following teachings of Mandel.

Column 2, lines 47-51 which states that the treatment vessel are "substantially free of any solvent."

Column 6, lines 24-27 which states that "care must be taken not to utilize starting materials which are soluble in the process media."

And all of the claims (via the sole main Claim 1) of patentee recite that the treatment vessel is "substantially free of any solvent."

The Examiner has noted that at column 6 lines 49-51 patentee teaches that when using thermoplastic resins, plasticizers may be utilized. It is submitted that his teaching has no importance with respect to applicant's claimed invention which specially is directed to "heat reactive" resin systems.

Claim 21 is newly added to specify that the plasticizer or high boiling solvent is mineral spirits.

Claim 22 is newly added to specify that the plasticizer or mineral spirits is present in an amount less than 10% by weight.

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It is respectfully submitted that the method of the claims now standing in this application are patentably novel and are not anticipated alone or by any combination of the prior art. As such, reconsideration and early allowance are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard O. Church". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

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